

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance (10) comprising:  
a cooking chamber (11),  
~~having one or more heating elements (12), and~~  
~~also comprising a water supply (30) which has at least one water outlet (33) and which is fed by from~~ an external water supply source (40),  
~~characterized a water supply pipe having a water outlet coupled to the cooking chamber,~~  
~~in that one or more intermediate water storage reservoirs (45) having a predetermined interior volume (46) that is adapted to be filled with water are and provided in the water supply (30),~~  
~~in that the intermediate water storage reservoir or reservoirs (45) is being fed by the external water supply source (40),~~  
~~in that a single multi-port distributing valve having an entrance port coupled to said water supply, an exit port coupled to said storage reservoir and an exit port coupled to said water supply pipe, the interior volume (46) of the intermediate water storage reservoir or reservoirs (45) is being adapted to be controlled by said multi-port distributing valve to be intermittently blocked in regard to the filling process and intermittently blocked in regard to the emptying process, and~~  
~~in that the water from the interior volume (46) of the intermediate water storage reservoir or reservoirs (45) is being adapted to be emptied into the cooking chamber (11) via the water outlet or the water outlets (33) for the purposes of generating steam.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 1,  
~~characterized wherein~~  
~~in that there is provided a control or regulating device (50) which initiates periodic or clocked emptying of the interior volume (46).~~
3. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the intermediate water storage reservoir (45) ~~is in the form of~~ comprises a swept cylinder whose interior volume (46) is adapted to be emptied by a piston (48).

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 4 2,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the multi-port distributing valve (47) is a 3/2-port distributing valve which is controlled electrically by the control and regulating device (50).

6. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the ~~process of~~ emptying ~~of~~ the interior volume (46) of the intermediate water storage reservoir (45) is realized by a piston (48) which periodically discharges the water in a swept cylinder.

7. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 6,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the piston (48) of the swept cylinder is equipped with a spring (49) in order to push the water into the cooking chamber (11) when the cylinder is opened at the cooking chamber side.

8. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the rate of flow for the generation of the steam is adapted to be varied by ~~the~~ a control and regulating device (50) by means of a change in timing of the clock rate for the emptying

mechanism of the interior volume (46).

9. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the intermediate water storage reservoir (45) is connected by a hose-like water supply pipe (32) to the cooking chamber (11) and a pre-determined lay of the hose converts the periodically varying rate of flow into a continuous rate of flow.

10. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

characterized wherein

~~in that there is provided~~ a sensor (34) ~~which~~ monitors the emptying process, and in particular, the displacement of ~~the~~ a piston (48).

11. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the water supply (30) comprises at least two water supply pipes (30a, 30b) which run in parallel in sections thereof, and

~~in that~~ each of the water supply pipes (30a, 30b) has one or more intermediate water storage reservoirs (45a, 45b) having a respective predetermined interior volume that is adapted to be filled with water (46a, 46b).

12. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with Claim 11,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ respective intermediate water storage reservoirs (45a, 45b) of the two water supply

pipes (30a, 30b) are combined with one another in such a manner that they form a common intermediate water storage reservoir (45), whereby its interior accommodates the two interior volumes (46a, 46b) which are separated by the piston (48) that discharges the water in such a manner that the movement of the piston (48) simultaneously leads to an emptying of the interior volume (46a, 46b) of the one intermediate water storage reservoir (45a, 45b) and to the filling of the other associated interior volume (46a, 46b) of the other intermediate water storage reservoir (45b, 45a).

13. (Currently Amended) A cooking appliance in accordance with ~~any of the preceding Claims~~  
Claim 12,

characterized wherein

~~in that~~ the intermediate water storage reservoir or reservoirs (45, 45a, 45b) are adapted to be blocked by means of a plurality of two/two-port distributing valves (47a, 47b, 47c, 47d) in alternating manner in regard to the filling process and in regard to the emptying process.

Please add the following new claims:

14. (new) A cooking appliance comprising:  
a cooking chamber;  
at least one heating element in the cooking chamber;  
a water supply which is fed from a water supply source;  
a water outlet pipe that terminates at a water outlet that is disposed within said cooking chamber;  
said water supply including at least two separate water supply pipes;  
at least two intermediate water storage reservoirs each having respective interior volumes adapted to be filled with water from said respective water supply pipes;  
at least two multi-port distributing valves associated respectively with the at least two intermediate water storage reservoirs for respectively controlling the filling and emptying of said

intermediate water storage reservoirs;

the water from the respective interior volumes of the intermediate water storage reservoirs adapted to be emptied into the cooking chamber via the water outlet for the purpose of generating steam.

15. (new) The cooking appliance of claim 14 wherein said at least two intermediate water storage reservoirs are combined in a common container and are separated by a piston.

16. (new) The cooking appliance of claim 15 including an electrical control device for controlling said valves for providing periodic emptying of the interior volumes.

17. (new) The cooking appliance of claim 16 wherein each of the multi-port distributing valves is a 3/2-port distributing valve which is controlled by said electrical control device.

18. (new) The cooking appliance of claim 14 wherein the two multi-port distributing valves have an exit port that is connected together and coupled to said water outlet.

19. (new) The cooking appliance of claim 14 including four multi-port distributing valves arranged in pairs that are respectively associated with said at least two intermediate water storage reservoirs.

20. (new) The cooking appliance of claim 19 wherein each of the multi-port distributing valves is a 2/2-port distributing valve, the intermediate water storage reservoirs being adapted to be blocked by means of said 2/2-port distributing valves in an alternating manner in regard to the filling and emptying of the intermediate water storage reservoirs.